

CONCLUSION

For the reasons noted above, all claims are in condition for allowance over the art of record. No amendment to any claims has been made in light of this deficiency, which deficiency was acknowledged during the personal interview. Accordingly, removal of the pending rejection, and allowance of all claims, is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner believes that the applied art does teach the limitations of the originally-filed claims, it is respectfully requested that Examiner assist Applicant by directing where the limitations are believed taught in the art.

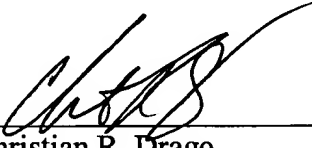
If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. (66329/97406B).

Respectfully submitted,

TUCKER ELLIS & WEST LLP

Date:

July 22, 2004

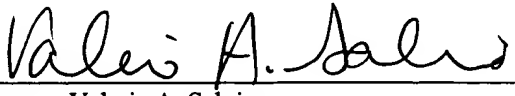

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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date:

July 22, 2004


Name: Valerie A. Salvino